



2021

From the Manse

There are so many things changing!

Over these past weeks, it has been a joy to have more people coming back to Sunday services.

I know there is still the frustration of wearing masks – but at least we can now sing together.

Many thanks to those who have given me hymn suggestions for services, I am still open to receive more of your choices.

The change we will notice in the coming weeks is that our organist, Skye, will be with us a little less often than has been the case since reopening.

Skye will resume her studies at Stirling University but now with in-person lectures there, she will manage less often to be here.

We wish Skye God's blessing as she moves into her 2nd years of study.

The worship group has kindly offered to lead our music in the gaps, along with some other help when required.

We are hugely indebted to talented musicians giving their gifts to help us sing our praises to God.

If you have musical ability and wish to help in this way, then it would be great to hear from you.

Another change is the recently installed video projection equipment.

This technology enables us to have the words of the hymns and the bible readings on-screen.

This, along with occasional video clip or other illustrations, is a great aid for our worship.

The projection system works best when a willing volunteer controls the computer system for this – at present I have only one helper.

Is this something you would do from time to time?

If you are comfortable with computers, this really is easy.

It would delight me to hear from anyone wishing to get involved in this important Sunday ministry.

As many of you are already aware, besides Sunday services, there is a recorded service made available on YouTube and Facebook.

This is directed toward those who can't come to church or who live further afield.

In the coming weeks I hope to replace the recorded service with a live streaming of the church service, out to these same media platforms.

To enable this a fund raising effort has been launched to raise the necessary finance for the equipment needed.

I know that a number of folks have already made contributions towards this project and I am so grateful for this support.

Hopefully it will not be long before everything will be up and running so that people near and far can benefit from the services coming from Mauchline church.

There are many other changes coming up.

The bible discussion groups will be restarting.

One online group is called "Faith, Hope and Climate Change" which will be hosted by Glasgow University Trinity College to help us consider the forthcoming climate change conference material from a Christian viewpoint. This begins Wednesday, 15 September at 7pm and runs each week until Wednesday, 27 October.

Login details for this will be available soon.

Change is something which impacts each of us – sometimes change is sought and welcomed, sometimes it comes and we find it difficult.

Amid all that changes, it is good for us to be reminded that God's love, grace and goodness never change.

He is, and always will be, there with us and for us through everything that happens.

God bless you.

Allan

Tower Clock Autobiography

I was created in Kilmarnock, and installed in the tower in Mauchline Parish Church in the the year 1859.

I replaced the clock which served thirty years in this building, being transferred from the previous church after many years service.

Over time I have told the time and struck the hours when world events and history was being made.

These include the abolition of slavery in America, the American Civil War, the Boer War and World War 1 and 2 also the Suffragette movement and votes for women and more recently the birth of the N.H.S.

I have watched over changes in our village, many buildings being demolished, new residential developments, the railway station was closed and local mines and small Industrial units closed.

Today I am pleased to observe the apparent prosperity of our community, comparing with the last 162 years.

Over my lifetime in the church tower I have been dependant on many dedicated people to wind up my mechanism and adjust the time.

There have also been clock specialists called on to adjust or replace parts of my workings over the years.

A number of years ago I lost my voice so no longer was there a chime every hour, then 8 or 9 years ago, in spite of my mentor's persistence, my mechanism had to be retired. Recently a small number of crafting ladies decided to start a fund to get The Village Clock going again.

I have them to thank for their perseverance making seasonal cards and novelties, being supported by the local community and wider, by purchasing and personal donations.

After about a year the fund had reached over half way to the target and a decision was made to apply to grant sources for further funding.

For many reasons some could not or had not the funds to donate, although approved of the project.

In due course success came by a large donation of £1000 from Mauchline Burns Club and a very generous donation of



£2600 from Jean Armour Burns Trust, whose support was reminiscent of the former Jean Armour Homes.! Now that funds were in place my workings were dismantled and taken to Edinburgh to be cleaned painted and refurbished, then the new electronics and electric motor fitted and checked.

After a return journey from Edinburgh, rebuilt in the tower and a week of tweaking and settling in, I am pleased to be back striking and telling the time again also being able to toll the bell at church time on Sundays.

My new workings need no more winding or adjustment and no one has to climb 3 flights of stairs for regular maintenance.

I am very grateful to the small steering group and all the supporters gave me a new lease of useful life.!

The Clock Tower

Presbytery Report

Since the online General Assembly there has been one scheduled Presbytery meeting in June, when many of the Radical Plan decisions were discussed, which has to be implemented by summer 2022.

This has meant extra meetings and presbytery area meetings. As of next year Ayr Presbytery will be part of the Presbytery of South West Scotland, covering an area north of Largs, down the Clyde coast to Stranraer then along the borders to Annan and Eskdale.

Over the next year much work will need done to be ready for the union of these six presbyteries, decisions will be brought to Kirk Sessions and congregations, informing everyone of the necessity for these plans.

I have been attending presbytery for eleven years when the proposed amalgamation of the three Ayrshire Presbyteries was being discussed often, but with no conclusion.

Since covid restrictions came in eighteen months ago the moves in this direction has gone apace, and coming to a stage of implementation.

Over the same time span there was talk of hub ministries and on line Church services available everyday and at any time of day, hub ministries will shortly be commonplace and online services are already accessible.

The need for the Radical Plan stems from the shortage of ministers, too many buildings and a need to trim the finances.

Zoom has been been a great advantage during this time of change, when face to face meetings were not possible and travelling was restricted. This allowed business to proceed, without which all these decisions would have been at a standstill.

We are now able to have face to face meetings, for myself with mixed feelings.

In spite of being of the pre computer generation, I was quite happy to have no travelling and shorter meetings.

The new Presbytery of necessity will have meetings by Zoom because of the land area involved.

Our Church is going through momentous times just now with decisions being made now which will have an influence on it for decades to come.

For this reason we should all keep in our thoughts and prayers those who have the heavy responsibility of making these big decisions.

Ian Watt

Calling all surfers

Web Statistics

The Google Analytics details for the web page show countries and numbers of visitors in the last three months

1 Jun - 31 Aug as shown below:

Country (No. Of Users)

United Kingdom(208), China(19),United States(15), France(5), Canada(3), Germany(3), Netherlands(2), Australia(1),Sweden(1) .

Youtube

Views of Allan's Sunday services over the same period of time are:

June 6(70), 13(73), 20(99), 27(52)

July 4(holiday), 11(124), 18(80), 25(86)

August 1(71), 8(holiday), 15(81), 22(64) 29(32)

If you have any friends or relatives who use the World Wide Web, be sure to let them know about www.mauchlineparish.org.uk and increase our audience. Perhaps they might even wish to become virtual members (and it doesn't cost anything to join)

Organisations

Please ensure that you check your web page for any inaccuracies or old information.

If you find anything needs to be changed, then please let me know, so that I can ensure that our website remains fresh and up-to-date.

Jim Beck

The Guild

Dear Guild Friends,

As things are now getting back to a bit more "normal", I am happy to tell you that I hope our Guild will re-group and have our first meeting on Monday 11.10.21 in the Dunlop Hall.

For this session we are changing to having the meetings in the afternoon starting at 1.30 p.m.

Any special procedures we need to follow I will let you know before the opening meeting.

The theme this season is "Lights and Bushels", the first strand of the new three year strategy, "Look Forward In Faith".

I am busy at the moment preparing a syllabus for the new session.

It is just so good and exciting to be at this stage.



If all goes well and no more restrictions and lock-down, I will be in touch.

Meantime I hope everyone is well, and enjoying the lovely sunny weather and be ready to come along and enjoy our Guild fellowship and friendship once again.

I very much look forward to seeing and meeting you all on Monday 11.10.21 at 1.30 p.m. In the Dunlop Hall

Isobel Smith, Covenor

From your treasurer

I must admit that after a number of months going back felt a bit strange, but I knew all the work and preparation that went into getting our church open again, therefore I didn't feel anxious in any way.

Kirsty, Russell and Jane played a huge part in getting it ready, and following the Church of Scotland and the governments' guidelines they helped make it a very safe space.

Since we have been able to sing that has made a difference to our worship.

Income to 24/7/2020

As Christians the Bible is clear that we are called to give generously.

God gave His only son because he loved us so much and He died on the cross for us.

Now that's generosity and sets us a target for our giving although our giving will never come close to God's.

Throughout the bible there are many examples of generosity and that incorporates offerings and tithes.

Other ways of giving include time and talents.

With our church buildings being closed during lock-down our revenue stream was badly hit, and we didn't have any revenue from halls rentals.

We received a bequest of £1500 from a former member of our congregation.

I am happy to report that our deficit is reducing albeit slowly, and I am confident that this will continue.

The Finance report up to 31st July 2021 is:

Receipts £42964

Payments £51926

deficit £ 8962

Many now give by bank standing order and I would encourage you to do your giving in this way if you can.

If you still feel that you are unable to attend church and you have WFO envelopes please let me know and I will arrange to collect them.

Once again I thank everyone for their continued support to enable us to keep our church and halls in good order.

A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the Lord; it is holy to the Lord.

Leviticus ch 27 v30

Elizabeth Morris

AUTUMN RECIPE:

If you are looking for a slice of something nice, you won't go far wrong with the recipe below.

Spicy Milk Loaf

450g (1lb) self raising flour

¼ teaspoon salt

1 teaspoon cinnamon

¼ teaspoon ground ginger

1 teaspoon mixed spice

150g (6oz) mixed dried fruit

100g (4oz) soft brown sugar

2 tablespoons honey

75g (3oz) butter

280ml (½ pint) milk

Oven temperature: 170°C/325°F/No. 3

Position in oven: centre

Time in oven: 1 hour approx.



METHOD

1. Line and grease a 1kg (2lb) loaf tin.
2. Sieve flour, salt and spices together then stir in dried fruit.
3. Put sugar, honey and butter in a pan and heat gently until melted then mix with the milk into the flour to give a fairly sticky consistency.
4. Turn the mixture into the prepared tin and bake in oven until a skewer inserted in the centre comes out cleanly.



Congregational Register

New Members by Profession of Faith

None

Certificate of Transfer issued to

None

Admitted by Certificate

None

Weddings

None

Baptisms

None

Mauchline Funerals

None

Dates For the diary

September

Online group called "Faith, Hope and Climate Change

15th 7pm

22nd 7pm

29th 7pm

Login details will be made available

October

Online group called "Faith, Hope and Climate Change

6th 7pm

13th 7pm

20th 7pm

27th 7pm

Login details will be made available

Guild 11th 1.30pm in Dunlop Hall (To be confirmed)

Who's Who & Where

Minister

Rev Allan Vint, Mail: avint@churchofscotland.org.uk

Session Clerk:

Mrs Kirsty Murray

Treasurer:

Elizabeth Morris

Deputy Treasurer:

Vacancy

Clerk to the Board:

Vacancy

Prayer Co-ordinator:

Mrs Sue Crawshaw

Roll Keeper:

Mrs Isabel Smith

Acting Organist:

Skye Schendel

Church Officer:

Alexis Lowe

Newsletter Editor:

Mr Jim Beck, Mail: mauchlineparish@yahoo.com



Excerpt from Our Daily Bread

- From He Hears Gods faithfulness.pdf

Our Prayer for Peace

Our world is full of confusion, chaos and fear; but you have promised to give me your peace. Thank you that I do not need to try to fix or control all of the circumstances of my life-or the lives of others -but you give me the freedom to trust you to what I cannot do.

I give you all my worries, my anxieties, my fears and all of my troubling thoughts; I put them into your strong, loving hands.

And I ask you to give me peace beyond my understanding.

Next time I try to take these worries back, please remind me of this prayer!

Amen